

# FIRST

# AID

# KIT

Updated 07/02/2025

The AAUP's Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom has curated practical resources for those facing threats to their academic freedom, including how to find organizations that offer legal support. We also offer resources concerning digital security, travel, and dox defense. We welcome suggestions about other resources and ways we can support you in your work.

Please feel free to reach out:  
[CDAF@aaup.org](mailto:CDAF@aaup.org).

**CENTER FOR THE DEFENSE  
OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

**aaup**

# AAUP + AFT

# RESOURCES

<b>American Association of University Professors (AAUP)</b>	Any academic worker who holds a professional position of teacher, researcher, graduate student, or related professional appointment can join the AAUP.	Find your AAUP chapter: <a href="https://www.aaup.org/chapters/find-chapter">aaup.org/chapters/find-chapter</a> Join: <a href="https://www.aaup.org/join">aaup.org/join</a> Email: <a href="mailto:organizing@aaup.org">organizing@aaup.org</a>
<b>FAQs on Academic Freedom (AAUP)</b>	The <i>AAUP</i> has compiled answers to key questions, including topics such as application to teaching and research and the difference between academic freedom, free speech, and First Amendment protections.	<a href="https://www.aaup.org/issues-higher-education/academic-freedom/faqs-academic-freedom">aaup.org/issues-higher-education/academic-freedom/faqs-academic-freedom</a>
<b>AAUP's Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance (DAFTG)</b>	Those facing a threat to academic freedom on campus can reach out to the staff at DAFTG, who respond to AAUP members and non-members, and provide advice regarding Association-supported principles and standards.	Email: <a href="mailto:academicfreedom@aaup.org">academicfreedom@aaup.org</a>
<b>Faculty First Responders (FFR)</b>	<i>FFR</i> assists academic workers who are experiencing targeted harassment.	<a href="https://www.facultyfirstresponders.com">facultyfirstresponders.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:facultyfirstresponders@gmail.com">facultyfirstresponders@gmail.com</a>
<b>Targeted Harassment of Faculty (AAUP)</b>	This resource provides steps faculty can take to prepare for and respond to targeted online harassment.	<a href="https://www.aaup.org/issues-higher-education/political-attacks-higher-ed/targeted-harassment-faculty/what-you-can-do">aaup.org/issues-higher-education/political-attacks-higher-ed/targeted-harassment-faculty/what-you-can-do</a>
<b>The AAUP's Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom (CDAF)</b>	<i>CDAF</i> has produced a number of useful Action Reports, including how to respond to TPUSA, post-tenure review laws, and NSF grant cuts.	Action Reports: <a href="https://www.aaup.org/publications-media">aaup.org/publications-media</a>
<b>Curated Resource List (AAUP)</b>	The <i>AAUP</i> has also curated practical resources that can be used by faculty, AAUP chapters, unions, administrators, and others.	<a href="https://www.aaup.org/curated-resource-list">aaup.org/curated-resource-list</a>
<b>American Federation of Teachers (AFT)</b>	<i>AFT</i> has resources for navigating attacks on funding, research, and DEI, as well as for international faculty, staff, and students in the US.	<a href="https://www.aft.org/featured-resources/defending-higher-education-in-2025">aft.org/featured-resources/defending-higher-education-in-2025</a>

# GENERAL LEGAL RESOURCES

<b>American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)</b>	The <i>ACLU</i> works to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in the United States by the Constitution and laws.	For legal assistance please contact your local affiliates: <a href="https://www.aclu.org/affiliates">aclu.org/affiliates</a>
<b>Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)</b>	<i>CAIR</i> 's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.	Report Incident: <a href="https://www.cair.com/report">cair.com/report</a> Hotline: 202-742-6420 Email: <a href="mailto:civilrights@cair.com">civilrights@cair.com</a>
<b>Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University</b>	The <i>Knight Institute</i> litigates issues of freedom of speech, especially in digital spaces. They prioritize cases on free speech and social media, transparency and democracy, and privacy and surveillance.	<a href="https://www.knightcolumbia.org">knightcolumbia.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@knightcolumbia.org">info@knightcolumbia.org</a> Phone: 646-745-8500
<b>National Lawyers Guild (NLG)</b>	The <i>NLG</i> provides guidance for setting up a legal defense fund, a directory of attorneys specializing in immigration issues, and Know Your Risk resources.	Chapters: <a href="https://www.nlg.org/chapters">nlg.org/chapters</a> Directory: <a href="https://www.nlg.org/referral-directory">nlg.org/referral-directory</a> Responsive Guides: <a href="https://www.nlg.org/massdefenseprogram/responsive-guides">nlg.org/massdefenseprogram/responsive-guides</a>
<b>Palestine Legal</b>	<i>Palestine Legal</i> works with a network of organizations to respond to requests for legal and advocacy assistance. For immigration and criminal matters, they can offer referrals.	Intake Form: <a href="https://www.palestinelegal.org/intake">palestinelegal.org/intake</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@palestinelegal.org">info@palestinelegal.org</a>

If you are an AAUP or AFT member you have access to AFT legal benefits, which include a free 30-minute consultation (and 25 percent off legal fees). For a fee, you can also enroll in a MetLife Legal Plan, which offers additional legal protection. AFT now offers Professional Liability Insurance; email [aftplus@aft.org](mailto:aftplus@aft.org) in order to purchase.

A FULL LIST OF RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND ON [AAUP.ORG/ADDITIONAL-LEGAL-RESOURCES](https://www.aaup.org/additional-legal-resources)

# IMMIGRATION LEGAL RESOURCES

<b>American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)</b>	The <i>ADC</i> defends and promotes human rights, civil rights, and liberties of Arab Americans and other persons of Arab heritage. They run an emergency legal hotline and offer assistance to those contacted by the FBI.	<a href="http://adc.org">adc.org</a> Hotline: 844-ADC-9955 FBI Assistance: 202-244-2990
<b>Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)</b>	The <i>ILRC</i> does not provide direct legal services or individual legal consultations. They do offer community resources.	Community Resources: <a href="http://ilrc.org/community-resources">ilrc.org/community-resources</a>
<b>Immigration Advocates Network</b>	<i>Immigration Advocates Network</i> provides a searchable national directory for legal clinics and legal services specific to immigration issues.	Directory: <a href="http://immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory">immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory</a>
<b>Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR)</b>	<i>LCR</i> provides free legal advice for immigrants facing imminent threats.	<a href="http://lawyersforcivilrights.org">lawyersforcivilrights.org</a> Phone: 617-988-0606 Email: <a href="mailto:hotline@lawyersforcivilrights.org">hotline@lawyersforcivilrights.org</a>
<b>National Immigration Project</b>	The <i>National Immigration Project</i> litigates, advocates, educates, and builds bridges across movements to ensure that those who are impacted by our immigration and criminal legal systems are uplifted and supported.	Directory: <a href="http://nipnlg.org/work/find-attorney">nipnlg.org/work/find-attorney</a> Phone: 617-227-9727 Email: <a href="mailto:info@nipnlg.org">info@nipnlg.org</a>

# DIGITAL SECURITY RESOURCES

<b>Access Now</b>	<i>Access Now</i> has a 24/7 digital security helpline; they also offer resources on staying safe online in the context of conflict in Gaza.	<a href="https://accessnow.org">accessnow.org</a> 24/7 Helpline: <a href="https://accessnow.org/help">accessnow.org/help</a> Email: <a href="mailto:help@accessnow.org">help@accessnow.org</a>
<b>Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)</b>	<i>EFF</i> offers information about privacy and security settings for iPhone and Android, and publishes printable guides for border search and digital privacy at the US border.	Tool Guides: <a href="https://ssd.eff.org/module-categories/tool-guides">ssd.eff.org/module-categories/tool-guides</a>
<b>Privacy Guides</b>	<i>Privacy Guides</i> offer a list of tools, including information about browsers, e-mail, VPN's, and cloud storage. They also host a series of helpful videos, a forum, and a section on privacy best practices.	List of Tools: <a href="https://privacyguides.org/en/tools">privacyguides.org/en/tools</a> Helpful Videos: <a href="https://privacyguides.org/videos">privacyguides.org/videos</a> Forum: <a href="https://discuss.privacyguides.net">discuss.privacyguides.net</a>
<b>Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (STOP)</b>	<i>STOP</i> litigates and advocates for privacy, working to abolish local governments' systems of mass surveillance. They offer guidance on securing devices and communication, including a toolkit on protest surveillance safety.	Protest Surveillance Toolkit: <a href="https://stopspying.org/protest">stopspying.org/protest</a>

If you are concerned about your emails or other documents being subject to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, please see the CDAF report on the topic [aaup.org/sites/default/files/Responding\\_to\\_FOI\\_Requests.pdf](https://aaup.org/sites/default/files/Responding_to_FOI_Requests.pdf).

# DOX DEFENSE RESOURCES

<b>Aaron Roussell and Max Parmer Portland State University (PSU)</b>	Aaron and Max from PSU offer specific recommendations for doxing mitigation for academics (2024).	A Guide to Online Safety for Academics: <a href="https://sites.google.com/pdx.edu/aaronroussell/academic-organizing-zine-ongoing">sites.google.com/pdx.edu/aaronroussell/academic-organizing-zine-ongoing</a>
<b>Coalition Against Online Violence</b>	The <i>Coalition Against Online Violence</i> hosts a response hub and offers a few emergency steps to take if you've been doxed.	Emergency Steps to Take: <a href="https://onlineviolenceresponsehub.org/doxxing-emergency-steps-to-take">onlineviolenceresponsehub.org/doxxing-emergency-steps-to-take</a>
<b>Digital Defense</b>	<i>Digital Defense</i> offers some guidance on “doxing yourself” to see what sensitive personal information of yours is easily searchable online.	<a href="https://digitaldefense.com">digitaldefense.com</a> Dox Yourself: <a href="https://digitaldefense.noblogs.org/doxx-yourself">digitaldefense.noblogs.org/doxx-yourself</a>
<b>Equity Labs</b>	<i>Equity Labs</i> , a startup dedicated to progressive power-building, provides practical tools for activists and a comprehensive anti-doxing guide for activists.	Digital Security: <a href="https://equalitylabs.org/work/digital-security">equalitylabs.org/work/digital-security</a> Anti-Doxing Guide: <a href="https://equalitylabs.org/research/publications-resources">equalitylabs.org/research/publications-resources</a>
<b>Library Freedom Project</b>	<i>The Library Freedom Project</i> offers an anti-doxing in academia toolkit with recommendations on preventive measures and steps to take if you're the target of harassment.	Toolkit: <a href="https://libraryfreedom.org/resources">libraryfreedom.org/resources</a>

# TRAVEL RESOURCES

<b>American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)</b>	The <i>ACLU</i> has 54 local offices across the US working with attorneys and activists in their communities to shape better policies and spread awareness about their states' priority civil rights issues.	<a href="https://www.aclu.org">aclu.org</a> Training Videos: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/@ACLU">youtube.com/@ACLU</a>
<b>Creating Law Enforcement Accountability &amp; Responsibility (CLEAR)</b>	<i>CLEAR</i> project's mandate is to support Muslim and all other clients and communities targeted by local, state, or federal government agencies under the guise of national security and counterterrorism.	Know Your Rights While Traveling: <a href="https://www.cunyclear.org/know-your-rights">cunyclear.org/know-your-rights</a> In English, Spanish, Arabic, Bangla, Urdu and Farsi
<b>Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)</b>	<i>EFF</i> , the leading nonprofit defending digital privacy, free speech, and innovation, offers printable resources such as: Protecting the Data On Your Devices, Digital Privacy at the U.S. Border, and the EFF Border Search Pocket Guide.	<a href="https://www.eff.org/issues/know-your-rights">eff.org/issues/know-your-rights</a>
<b>Dream Big, Act Bigger</b>	<i>Dream Big, Act Bigger</i> is a publication exploring the intersection of personal growth, political truth, and global impact.	Shortcut for vulnerable travelers: <a href="https://mrearthrebirth.substack.com/p/new-tool-the-im-at-customs-shortcut">mrearthrebirth.substack.com/p/new-tool-the-im-at-customs-shortcut</a>
<b>Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR)</b>	LCR's Immigrant Defense Hotline is providing timely and free legal advice for immigrants facing imminent threats related to immigration enforcement.	<a href="https://www.lawyersforcivilrights.org">lawyersforcivilrights.org</a> Immigrant Defense Hotline: 617-988-0606

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS RESOURCES

<b>American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)</b>	<p>The <i>ACLU</i> works to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in the US by the Constitution and laws. If you believe your civil liberties have been violated, contact your local ACLU affiliate here: <a href="https://aclu.org/affiliates">aclu.org/affiliates</a></p>	<p>Protesters Rights: <a href="https://aclu.org/know-your-rights/protesters-rights">aclu.org/know-your-rights/protesters-rights</a> Guidance for Non-Citizens: <a href="https://aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights">aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights</a></p>
<b>The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)</b>	<p><i>CAIR</i> is a grassroots civil rights and advocacy group. CAIR seeks to empower the American Muslim community and encourage their participation in political and social activism.</p>	<p>Know Your Rights Guides: <a href="https://cair.com/know_your_rights/download-know-your-rights-guides">cair.com/know_your_rights/download-know-your-rights-guides</a> Travel &amp; Free Speech: <a href="https://cair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CAIR-Latest-2025-Travel-and-Speech-Guidance.pdf">cair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CAIR-Latest-2025-Travel-and-Speech-Guidance.pdf</a></p>
<b>The National Immigration Law Center (NILC)</b>	<p>The <i>NILC</i> is one of the leading advocacy organizations in the US dedicated to advancing and defending the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their loved ones.</p>	<p>For Immigrants: <a href="https://nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration">nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration</a> For Community Members: <a href="https://nilc.org/resources/immigrant-and-refugee-children-a-guide-for-educators-and-school-support-staff">nilc.org/resources/immigrant-and-refugee-children-a-guide-for-educators-and-school-support-staff</a></p>
<b>The National Immigration Project</b>	<p>The <i>National Immigration Project</i> is a membership organization of attorneys, advocates, and community members who are driven by the belief that all people should be treated with dignity, live freely, and flourish.</p>	<p>Community Trainings: <a href="https://nipnlg.org/events/community-trainings">nipnlg.org/events/community-trainings</a> Resources for Community Advocates: <a href="https://nipnlg.org/work/resources">nipnlg.org/work/resources</a></p>